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Agribusiness Insurance NAIC*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SPOKANE

NATIONWIDE AGRIBUSINESS  
INSURANCE NAIC, a foreign Insurer,

Cause No. 2:24-cv-0381

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY RELIEF**

vs.

NORTHWEST WHOLESALE, INC., a  
Washington corporation;

Defendants.

Plaintiff Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance NAIC (“Nationwide”), for its  
Complaint against Defendant, alleges as follows:

**I. PARTIES**

1.1 Plaintiff Nationwide is an Iowa corporation with its principal place of  
business in Des Moines, Iowa.

1.2 Defendant Northwest Wholesale, Inc. (“Northwest Wholesale”) is a  
for profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington with its

1 principal place of business located at 5416 Enterprise Drive, East Wenatchee,  
2 Chelan County, Washington, 98802-9600.

3 1.3 Nationwide seeks a declaration of its rights and duties with respect to  
4 Northwest Wholesale pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, which gives this court  
5 jurisdiction over this matter to resolve an actual case or controversy between  
6 parties.  
7

## 8 II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9 2.1 This action is between citizens of different states.

10 2.2 The amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000,  
11 exclusive of interest and costs, as set forth more particularly below.  
12

13 2.3 This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

14 2.4 An actual justiciable controversy exists between Nationwide and  
15 Northwest Wholesale within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 2201, *et seq.* regarding  
16 the scope and extent of insurance coverage provided under the Nationwide policies,  
17 as set forth more particularly below.  
18

19 2.5 Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) in that  
20 a substantial portion of the events giving rise to the insurance claim occurred in this  
21 District.  
22  
23

### III. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

3.1 Nationwide reasserts the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1.1 through 2.5 above as fully set forth herein.

3.2 Nationwide issued primary policy number CPP856273A (“the Primary Policy”) with an initial policy period of January 1, 2005 through January 1, 2006, to Northwest Wholesale. Nationwide annually renewed the Primary Policy until the end of the January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020 policy period.

3.3. Nationwide also issued liability umbrella policy CU 856273A (“Umbrella Policy”) to Northwest Wholesale initially for the January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013 policy period, which was then renewed annually continuing through the January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020 policy period.

3.4 A lawsuit was filed by Dale Smith (“Smith”) against Northwest Wholesale, as well as a number of other defendants, in King County Superior Court, Cause No. 21-2-08160-2 SEA, on or about June 21, 2021 (the “Underlying Action”). A true and accurate copy of the operative complaint filed in the Underlying Action is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and is incorporated by reference.

3.5 In the Underlying Action, Smith alleges that he developed Parkinson’s disease as a result of exposure to paraquat.

1           3.6     Smith further alleges that he was exposed to paraquat as a result of his  
2 employment in orchards and as a groundskeeper and that his employers obtained  
3 at least some of the paraquat from Northwest Wholesale.

4           3.7     The Complaint in the Underlying Action alleges that Smith was  
5 exposed to paraquat between 1983 and 1998.

6           3.8     Smith further alleges that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease  
7 on or about 1997, and that his Parkinson's disease is related to his exposure to  
8 paraquat.

9           3.9     The Complaint in the Underlying Action alleges causes of action for  
10 (1) negligence; and (2) breach of express and implied warranties against Northwest  
11 Wholesale.

12           3.10    Nationwide agreed to defend Northwest Wholesale in the Underlying  
13 Action under a reservation of rights under the Primary Policy.

14           3.11    Various versions of Form CG 00 01<sup>1</sup>, Commercial General Liability  
15 Coverage, were included in the Primary Policy over the different policy periods. It  
16 provides, in pertinent part:

17                   Various provisions in this policy restrict coverage. Read the entire  
18 policy carefully to determine rights, duties and what is and is not  
19 covered.

20  
21  
22 <sup>1</sup> CG 00 01 10 01 (05-06); CG 00 01 12 04 (06-07; 07-08; 08-09); CG 00 01 12 07 (09-10; 10 -11; 11-12; 12-13;  
23 13-14;); and CG 00 01 04 -13 (14-15; 15-16; 16-17; 17-18; 18-19; 19-20). In all pertinent respects, the insuring  
agreement language is substantially similar in each version of the CG 00 01 form.



Throughout this policy the words "you" and "your" refer to the Named Insured shown in the Declarations, and any other person or organization qualifying as a Named Insured under this policy.

The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to the company providing this insurance. The word "insured" means any person or organization qualifying as such under Section **II** - Who Is An Insured.

Other words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section **V** - Definitions.

## **SECTION I - COVERAGES**

### **COVERAGE A BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY**

#### **1. Insuring Agreement**

a. We will pay those sums that the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as damages because of "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking those damages. However, we will have no duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance does not apply. We may, at our discretion, investigate any "occurrence" and settle any claim or "suit" that may result. But:

- (1) The amount we will pay for damages is limited as described in Section **III** – Limits Of Insurance; and
- (2) Our right and duty to defend ends when we have used up the applicable limit of insurance in the payment of judgments or settlements under Coverages **A** or **B** or medical expenses under Coverage **C**.

No other obligation or liability to pay sums or perform acts or services is covered unless explicitly provided for under Supplementary Payments - Coverages **A** and **B**.

b. This insurance applies to "bodily injury" and "property damage" only if:

- (1) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" is caused by an "occurrence" that takes place in the "coverage territory";

(2) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurs during the policy period; and

(3) Prior to the policy period, no insured listed under Paragraph 1. of Section II - Who Is An Insured and no "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim, knew that the "bodily injury" or "property damage" had occurred, in whole or in part. If such a listed insured or authorized "employee" knew, prior to the policy period, that the "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurred, then any continuation, change or resumption of such "bodily injury" or "property damage" during or after the policy period will be deemed to have been known prior to the policy period.

c. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which occurs during the policy period and was not, prior to the policy period, known to have occurred by any insured listed under Paragraph 1. of Section II - Who Is An Insured or any "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim, includes any continuation, change or resumption of that "bodily injury" or "property damage" after the end of the policy period.

\* \* \*

## SECTION V – DEFINITIONS

\* \* \*

3. "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness or disease sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time.

\* \* \*

5. "Employee" includes a "leased worker". "Employee" does not include a "temporary worker".

\* \* \*

**10. "Leased worker"** means a person leased to you by a labor leasing firm under an agreement between you and the labor leasing firm, to perform duties related to the conduct of your business. "Leased worker" does not include a "temporary worker".

\* \* \*



(1) "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which would not have occurred in whole or part but for the actual, alleged or threatened discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" at any time; or  
 (2) "Pollution cost or expense".

This exclusion does not apply if valid "underlying insurance" for the pollution liability risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". Coverage provided will follow the provisions, exclusions and limitations of the "underlying insurance".

\* \* \*

**15.** "Pollutants" mean any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed.

The Umbrella Policy also contains form CCU5552<sup>2</sup>, which amends the pollution exclusion, as follows:

**B. POLLUTION EXCLUSION CLARIFICATION**

The following is added to Subparagraph i., **Pollution** of Paragraph 2., **Exclusions** under **Section I – COVERAGES, Coverage A – Bodily Injury And Property Damage Liability** and to Subparagraph a. (13), **Pollution** of Paragraph 2., **Exclusions** under **Section I COVERAGES, Coverage B – Personal And Advertising Injury Liability** or to any amendment to or replacement thereof:

This Pollution Exclusion applies even if such irritant or contaminant has a function in your business, operations, premises, site or location .  
 . .

<sup>2</sup> The 2012 to 2014 policies were subject to form CCU5222 0107; the 2014 -- policies were subject to form CCU5222 0413 .while each version of the form is slightly different, the pertinent policy language is substantially similar in all the forms.

1           3.15 There is no coverage or potential for coverage under the  
2 Primary Policy or the Umbrella Policy for the claims in the Underlying  
3 Action.

4                   **IV. CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF**

5           4.1 Nationwide reasserts the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1.1  
6 through 3.15 above as though fully set forth herein.

7           4.2 In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2201, Nationwide seeks a ruling from  
8 this Court that the Primary Policy and/or the Umbrella Policy do not provide  
9 coverage for the claims in the Underlying Action.

10           4.3 An actual justiciable controversy exists between Nationwide and  
11 Northwest Wholesale concerning whether there is insurance coverage under the  
12 Primary Policy and/or the Umbrella Policy for the claims asserted in the Underlying  
13 Action.

14           4.4 Based on the terms of the Primary Policy and/or the Umbrella Policy,  
15 and the facts of the claim, as alleged in the Complaint, and as developed through  
16 discovery in the Underlying Action, Nationwide has no duty to defend and/or no  
17 duty to indemnify Northwest Wholesale for the claims made in the Underlying  
18 Action for one or more of the following reasons:  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

1           a.     The “bodily injury” alleged in the Underlying Action occurred  
2 prior to any of the applicable policy periods for the Primary Policy and the  
3 Umbrella Policy;

4           b.     No bodily injury occurred during any of the policy periods of  
5 the Primary Policy and/or Umbrella Policy;

6           c.     The claims in the Underlying Action do not constitute an  
7 “occurrence” under the Primary Policy and/or the Umbrella Policy;

8           d.     The Primary Limits have not been exhausted, so there is no  
9 coverage obligation under the Umbrella Policy; and  
10

11           e.     The claims in the Underlying Action are barred from coverage  
12 by application of the pollution exclusion in the Umbrella Policy.  
13

14       4.5     Because the Primary Policy and/or the Umbrella Policy do not provide  
15 coverage for the claims asserted in the Underlying Action, Nationwide is entitled  
16 to a declaration:

17           a.     That Nationwide has no duty to indemnify Northwest  
18 Wholesale with regard to the claims alleged in the Underlying Action;

19           b.     Nationwide has no duty to defend Northwest Wholesale in the  
20 Underlying Action; and  
21

22           c.     Nationwide is entitled to withdraw from the defense of  
23 Northwest Wholesale in the Underlying Action.

**V. RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND**

5.1 Nationwide reserves the right to amend its Complaint, in whole or in part, as it obtains additional facts through investigation and discovery.

**VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Nationwide seeks the following relief:

A. For a declaratory judgment in its favor that:

- (i) The Primary Policy and the Umbrella Policy do not provide coverage to Northwest Wholesale for the claims in the Underlying Action;
- (ii) Nationwide has no duty to defend Northwest Wholesale in the Underlying Action under the Primary Policy or the Umbrella Policy;
- (iii) Nationwide may withdraw from the defense of Northwest Wholesale in the Underlying Action; and
- (iv) Nationwide has no duty to indemnify Northwest Wholesale in connection with any settlement or judgment in the Underlying Action.

B. For judgment in an amount to be determined;

C. For costs and attorney's fees to the extent permitted by law; and

D. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and equitable.

1 DATED this 4 day of November, 2024.

2 SOHA & LANG, P.S.

3 s/Misty Edmundson

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9 *Attorney for Plaintiff Nationwide*

10 *Agribusiness Insurance NAIC*



# EXHIBIT A

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY**

**DALE SMITH,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**CHEVRON U.S.A., INC.;**  
**CHEVRON PHILLIPS CHEMICAL**  
**COMPANY LP;**  
**CHAMBERLIN DISTRIBUTING**  
**COMPANY, INC. d/b/a CHAMBERLIN**  
**AGRICULTURE;**  
**NORTHWEST WHOLESALE, INC.;**  
**SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION, LLC;**  
**and SYNGENTA AG;**

**Defendants.**

**NO.**

**COMPLAINT FOR PERSONAL**  
**INJURIES**

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Dale Smith, by and through his undersigned attorneys, and files this, Plaintiff's Complaint for Damages, against Defendants CHEVRON U.S.A., INC.; CHEVRON PHILLIPS CHEMICAL COMPANY LP; CHAMBERLIN DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC. d/b/a CHAMBERLIN AGRICULTURE; NORTHWEST WHOLESALE, INC.; SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION, LLC; and SYNGENTA AG, and alleges the following:



1 registered agent, The Prentice-Hall Corporation System, Inc., 300 Deschutes Way SW, Ste 208, Mc-  
2 CSC1, Tumwater, Washington 98501.

3 7. Defendant Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP ("CP Chemical") is a foreign  
4 profit company with its principal place of business located in The Woodlands, Texas. It and/or its  
5 predecessor-in-interest is a company who, at times relevant herein, sold, supplied, and/or distributed  
6 defective and unreasonably dangerous paraquat products in Washington, where Plaintiff Dale Smith  
7 worked with and/or around said products. Defendant CP Chemical may be served with process  
8 through its registered agent, C T Corporation System, 711 Capitol Way S., Ste. 204, Olympia,  
9 Washington 98501.

10 8. Chamberlin Distributing Company, Inc. d/b/a Chamberlin Agriculture  
11 ("Chamberlin") is a Washington company. It is a company who, at times relevant herein, sold,  
12 supplied, and/or distributed defective and unreasonably dangerous paraquat products in Washington,  
13 where Plaintiff Dale Smith worked with and/or around said products. Defendant Chamberlin  
14 Agriculture may be served through its registered agent, Del Vanderhoff, 590 N. Chamberlin Way,  
15 Ste. A, East Wenatchee, Washington 98802.

16 9. Northwest Wholesale Incorporated ("Northwest Wholesale") is a Washington  
17 company. It is a company who, at times relevant herein, sold, supplied, and/or distributed defective  
18 and unreasonably dangerous paraquat products in Washington, where Plaintiff Dale Smith worked  
19 with and/or around said products. Defendant Chamberlin Agriculture may be served through its  
20 registered agent, Rodney Van Orman, 5416 Enterprise Dr., East Wenatchee, Washington 98802.

21 10. Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC ("SCPLLC") is a foreign profit company with its  
22 principal place of business located in Greensboro, North Carolina. It and/or its predecessor-in-interest  
23 is a company who, at times relevant herein, sold, supplied, and/or distributed defective and



1 unreasonably dangerous paraquat products in Washington, where Plaintiff Dale Smith worked with  
2 and/or around said products. Defendant Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC may be served with  
3 process through its registered agent, C T Corporation System, 711 Capitol Way S, Ste. 204,  
4 Olympia, Washington 98501.

5 11. Syngenta AG ("SAG") is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business  
6 in Basel, Switzerland.

## 7 II. PERSONAL JURISDICTION & VENUE

8 12. Plaintiff Dale Smith was exposed to paraquat-containing products in the state of  
9 Washington as a result of specific tortious actions undertaken by Defendants. Defendants are  
10 corporations or other business entities organized under the laws of the various states of the United  
11 States, including the State of Washington, that were and/or are doing business in the State of  
12 Washington and/or were participating in a concert-of-action that was or is located or conducted in  
13 or through Washington and/or had effects in Washington, including, but not limited to, the  
14 violation within the state of its laws and regulations.

15 13. The Court has general jurisdiction over Defendants Chamberlin and Northwest  
16 Wholesale because they are both incorporated in Washington and have their principal places of  
17 business in Washington.

18 14. The Court has specific jurisdiction over the remaining Defendants because they  
19 each (1) purposefully performed acts or consummated transactions in Washington, including  
20 business directly related to Plaintiff's allegations herein; (2) Plaintiff's cause of action arises out  
21 of and/or relates to Defendants' activities and/or transactions in Washington; and/or Defendants  
22 committed a tortious act that caused or contributed Dale Smith's exposure to paraquat in  
23 Washington; (3) said activities or transactions were directed in whole or in part toward the state;

1 and (4) assumption of jurisdiction over such out-of-state defendants by this Court does not offend  
2 traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

3 15. Furthermore, each Defendant: (A) (1) regularly does or solicits (and/or during the  
4 relevant time period, did or solicited) business; (2) engages (and/or during the relevant time period  
5 engaged) in one or more other persistent courses of conduct, including conduct related to Plaintiff's  
6 allegations herein; and/or (3) derives (and/or during the relevant time period derived) substantial  
7 revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the state, including from products  
8 and/or services at issue herein; and/or (B) expected or should reasonably have expected (and/or  
9 during the relevant time period expected or should have reasonably expected) its acts to have  
10 consequence in Washington and derives (and/or during the relevant time period derived)  
11 substantial revenue from interstate or international commerce.

12 16. Venue is appropriate in King County pursuant to RCW 4.12.020 and 4.12.025  
13 because certain Defendants reside in King County, Washington; currently transact business in  
14 King County; and/or transacted business at the time the cause of action arose in King County. For  
15 example, Defendants Chevron USA and/or CP Chemical currently own and/or operate dozens of  
16 filling stations in King County.

### 17 III. FACTS

#### 18 A. Defendants and Their Corporate Predecessors

##### 19 1. Syngenta Entities

20 17. In 1926, four British chemical companies merged to create the British company  
21 that then was known as Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. and ultimately was known as Imperial  
22 Chemical Industries PLC ("ICI"). In or about 1971, ICI created or acquired a wholly owned U.S.  
23 subsidiary organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, which at various times was known



1 as Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., ICI North America Inc., ICI America Inc., and ICI United States  
2 Inc., and ultimately was known as ICI Americas Inc. (collectively, "ICI Americas"). In or about  
3 1992, ICI merged its pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and specialty chemicals businesses,  
4 including the agrochemicals business it had operated at one time through a wholly owned British  
5 subsidiary known as Plant Protection Ltd. and later as a division within ICI, into a wholly owned  
6 British subsidiary known as ICI Bioscience Ltd. In 1993, ICI demerged its pharmaceuticals,  
7 agrochemicals, and specialty chemicals businesses, from which it created the Zeneca Group, with  
8 the British company Zeneca Group PLC as its ultimate parent company.

9 18. As a result of ICI's demerger and creation of the Zeneca Group, ICI Bioscience  
10 Ltd. was demerged from ICI and merged into, renamed, or continued its business under the same  
11 or similar ownership and management as Zeneca Ltd., a wholly owned British subsidiary of  
12 Zeneca Group PLC. Before ICI's demerger and creation of the Zeneca Group, ICI had a Central  
13 Toxicology Laboratory that performed and hired others to perform health and safety studies that  
14 were submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") and the U.S. Environmental  
15 Protection Agency ("EPA") to secure and maintain the registration of paraquat and other pesticides  
16 for use in the United States.

17 19. As a result of ICI's demerger and creation of the Zeneca Group, ICI's Central  
18 Toxicology Laboratory became Zeneca Ltd.'s Central Toxicology Laboratory. After ICI's  
19 demerger and creation of the Zeneca Group, Zeneca Ltd.'s Central Toxicology Laboratory  
20 continued to perform and hire others to perform health and safety studies that were submitted to  
21 EPA to secure and maintain the registration of paraquat and other pesticides for use in the United  
22 States. As a result of ICI's demerger and creation of the Zeneca Group, ICI Americas was  
23 demerged from ICI and merged into, renamed, or continued its business under the same or similar

1 ownership and management as Zeneca, Inc. ("Zeneca"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Zeneca  
2 Group PLC organized under the laws of the State of Delaware.

3 20. In 1996, the Swiss pharmaceutical and chemical companies Ciba-Geigy Ltd. and  
4 Sandoz AG merged to create the Novartis Group, with the Swiss company Novartis AG as the  
5 ultimate parent company. As a result of the merger that created the Novartis Group, Ciba-Geigy  
6 Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ciba-Geigy Ltd. organized under the laws of the State  
7 of New York, was merged into, or continued its business under the same or similar ownership and  
8 management as Novartis Crop Protection, Inc. ("NCPI"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Novartis  
9 AG organized under the laws of the State of Delaware.

10 21. In 1999, the Swedish pharmaceutical company Astra AB merged with Zeneca  
11 Group PLC to create the British company AstraZeneca PLC, of which Zeneca Ltd. and Zeneca  
12 were wholly owned subsidiaries. In 2000, Novartis AG and AstraZeneca PLC spun off and merged  
13 the Novartis Group's crop protection and seeds businesses and AstraZeneca's agrochemicals  
14 business to create the Syngenta Group, a global group of companies focused solely on  
15 agribusiness, with Defendant SAG as the ultimate parent company.

16 22. As a result of the Novartis/AstraZeneca spinoff and merger that created the  
17 Syngenta Group, Zeneca Ltd. was merged into, renamed, or continued its business under the same  
18 or similar ownership and management as Syngenta Ltd., a wholly owned British subsidiary of  
19 SAG; and Zeneca Ltd.'s Central Toxicology Laboratory became Syngenta Ltd.'s Central  
20 Toxicology Laboratory. Since the Novartis/AstraZeneca spinoff and merger that created the  
21 Syngenta Group, Syngenta Ltd.'s Central Toxicology Laboratory has continued to perform and  
22 hire others to perform health and safety studies for submission to the EPA to secure and maintain  
23 the registration of paraquat and other pesticides for use in the United States.



1           23. As a result of the Novartis/AstraZeneca spinoff and merger that created the  
2 Syngenta Group, NCPI and Zeneca were merged into and renamed, or continued to do their  
3 business under the same or similar ownership and management, as Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.  
4 ("SCPI"), a wholly owned subsidiary of SAG organized under the laws of the State of Delaware.  
5 In 2010, SCPI was converted into Defendant SCPLLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SAG  
6 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business  
7 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

8           24. As a result of these various transactions, discussed supra:

- 9           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
10 predecessor Novartis AG;
- 11           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
12 predecessor AstraZeneca PLC;
- 13           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
14 predecessor Zeneca Group PLC;
- 15           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
16 predecessor Imperial Chemical Industries PLC, previously known as Imperial  
17 Chemical Industries Ltd.;
- 18           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
19 predecessor ICI Bioscience Ltd.; and
- 20           • SAG is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
21 predecessor Plant Protection Ltd.

22           25. Additionally, as a result of these various transactions, discussed supra:

- 23           • SCPLLC is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
predecessor SCPI;
- SCPLLC is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
predecessor NCPI;
- SCPLLC is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
predecessor Ciba-Geigy Corporation;

- SCPLLC is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate predecessor Zeneca Inc.; and
- SCPLLC is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate predecessor ICI Americas Inc., previously known as Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., ICI North America Inc., ICI America Inc., and ICI United States Inc.

26. SCPLLC is registered to do business in the State of Washington, and SCPLLC does substantial business in the State of Washington, including the following:

- a. markets, advertises, distributes, sells, and delivers paraquat and other pesticides to distributors, dealers, applicators, and farmers in the State of Washington;
- b. secures and maintains the registration of paraquat and other pesticides with the EPA and the Washington Department of Agriculture to enable itself and others to manufacture, distribute, sell, and use these products in the State of Washington; and
- c. performs, hires others to perform, and funds or otherwise sponsors or otherwise funds the testing of pesticides in the State of Washington.

27. SAG is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland, with its principal place of business in Basel, Switzerland. SAG is a holding company that owns stock or other ownership interests, either directly or indirectly, in other Syngenta Group companies, including SCPLLC. SAG is a management holding company.

28. Syngenta Crop Protection AG ("SCPAG"), a Swiss corporation with its principal place of business in Basel, Switzerland, is one of SAG's direct, wholly owned subsidiaries. SCPAG employs the global operational managers of production, distribution, and marketing for the Syngenta Group's Crop Protection ("CP") and Seeds Divisions. The Syngenta Group's CP and Seeds Divisions are the business units through which SAG manages its CP and Seeds product lines. The Syngenta Group's CP and Seeds Divisions are not and have never been corporations or other legal entities.

29. SCPAG directly and wholly owns Syngenta International AG ("SIAG"). SIAG is the "nerve center" through which SAG manages the entire Syngenta Group. SIAG employs the



1 “Heads” of the Syngenta Group’s CP and Seeds Divisions. SIAG also employs the “Heads” and  
2 senior staff of various global functions of the Syngenta Group, including Human Resources,  
3 Corporate Affairs, Global Operations, Research and Development, Legal and Taxes, and Finance.  
4 Virtually all of the Syngenta Group’s global “Heads” and their senior staff are housed in the same  
5 office space in Basel, Switzerland.

6 30. SAG is the indirect parent of SCPLLC through multiple layers of corporate  
7 ownership:

- 8 a. SAG directly and wholly owns Syngenta Participations AG;
- 9 b. Syngenta Participations AG directly and wholly owns Seeds JV C.V.;
- 10 c. Seeds JV C.V. directly and wholly owns Syngenta Corporation;
- 11 d. Syngenta Corporation directly and wholly owns Syngenta Seeds, LLC; and
- 12 e. Syngenta Seeds, LLC directly and wholly owns SCPLLC.

13 31. Before SCPI was converted to SCPLLC, it was incorporated in Delaware, had its  
14 principal place of business in North Carolina, and had its own board of directors. SCPI’s sales  
15 accounted for more than 47% of the sales for the entire Syngenta Group in 2019.

16 32. SAG has purposefully organized the Syngenta Group, including SCPLLC, in such  
17 a way as to attempt to evade the authority of courts in jurisdictions in which it does substantial  
18 business. Although the formal legal structure of the Syngenta Group is designed to suggest  
19 otherwise, SAG in fact exercises an unusually high degree of control over its country-specific  
20 business units, including SCPLLC, through a “matrix management” system of functional  
21 reporting to global “Product Heads” in charge of the Syngenta Group’s unincorporated Crop  
22 Protection and Seeds Divisions, and to global “Functional Heads” in charge of human resources,  
23 corporate affairs, global operations, research and development, legal and taxes, and finance.

1           33. The lines of authority and control within the Syngenta Group do not follow its  
2 formal legal structure, but instead follow this global “functional” management structure. SAG  
3 controls the actions of its far-flung subsidiaries, including SCPLLC, through this global  
4 “functional” management structure. SAG’s board of directors has established a Syngenta  
5 Executive Committee (“SEC”), which is responsible for the active leadership and the operative  
6 management of the Syngenta Group, including SPLLC. The SEC consists of the CEO and various  
7 global Heads, which currently are:

- 8           a. The Chief Executive Officer;  
9           b. Group General Counsel;  
10          c. The President of Global Crop Protection;  
11          d. The Chief Financial Officer;  
12          e. The President of Global Seeds; and  
13          f. The Head of Human Resources;

14          34. SIAG employs all of the members of the Executive Committee.

15          35. Global Syngenta Group corporate policies require SAG subsidiaries, including  
16 SPLLC, to operate under the direction and control of the SEC and other unincorporated global  
17 management teams. SAG’s board of directors meets five to six times a year. In contrast, SCPI’s  
18 board of directors rarely met, either in person or by telephone, and met only a handful of times  
19 over the last decade before SCPI became SCPLLC.

20          36. Most, if not all, of the SCPI board’s formal actions, including selecting and  
21 removing SCPI officers, were taken by unanimous written consent pursuant to directions from the  
22 SEC or other Syngenta Group global or regional managers that were delivered via e-mail to SCPI  
23 board members. Since SCPI became SCPLLC, decisions that are nominally made by the board or



1 managers of SCPLLC in fact continue to be directed by the SEC or other Syngenta Group global  
2 or regional managers. Similarly, Syngenta Seeds, Inc.'s board of directors appointed and removed  
3 SCPI board members at the direction of the SEC or other Syngenta Group global or regional  
4 managers. Since SCPI became SCPLLC, the appointment and removal of the manager(s) of  
5 SCPLLC continues to be directed by the SEC or other Syngenta Group global or regional  
6 managers.

7 37. The management structure of the Syngenta Group's CP Division, of which  
8 SCPLLC is a part, is not defined by legal, corporate relationships, but by functional reporting  
9 relationships that disregard corporate boundaries. Atop the CP Division is the CP Leadership  
10 Team (or another body with a different name but substantially the same composition and  
11 functions), which includes the President of Global Crop Protection, the CP region Heads (including  
12 SCPLLC President Vern Hawkins), and various global corporate function Heads. The CP  
13 Leadership Team meets bi-monthly to develop strategy for new products, markets, and operational  
14 efficiencies and to monitor performance of the Syngenta Group's worldwide CP business.

15 38. Under the CP Leadership Team are regional leadership teams, including the North  
16 America Regional Leadership Team (or another body with a different name but substantially the  
17 same composition and functions), which oversees the Syngenta Group's U.S. and Canadian CP  
18 business (and, when previously known as the NAFTA Regional Leadership Team, also oversaw  
19 the Syngenta Group's Mexican CP business). The North America Regional Leadership Team is  
20 chaired by SCPLLC's president and includes employees of SCPLLC and the Syngenta Group's  
21 Canadian CP company (and when previously known as the NAFTA Regional Leadership Team,  
22 also included employees of the Syngenta Group's Mexican CP company).

23 39. The Syngenta Group's U.S. and Canadian CP companies, including SCPLLC,

1 report to the North America Regional Leadership Team, which reports the CP Leadership Team,  
2 which reports to the SEC, which reports to SAG's board of directors. Some members of the North  
3 America Regional Leadership Team, including some SCPLLC employees, report or have in the  
4 past reported not to their nominal superiors within the companies that employ them, but directly  
5 to the Syngenta Group's global Heads. Syngenta Group global Heads that supervise SCPLLC  
6 employees participate and have in the past participated in the performance reviews of these  
7 employees and in setting their compensation.

8 40. The Syngenta Group's functional reporting lines have resulted in employees of  
9 companies, including SCPLLC, reporting to officers of remote parent companies, officers of  
10 affiliates with no corporate relationship other than through SAG, or officers of subsidiary  
11 companies. SCPLLC performs its functions according to its role in the CP Division structure:

- 12 a. CP Division development projects are proposed at the global level, ranked, and  
13 funded at the global level after input from functional entities such as the CP  
14 Leadership Team and the North America Regional Leadership Team, and given  
15 final approval by the SEC;
- 16 b. New CP products are developed by certain Syngenta Group companies or  
17 functional groups that manage and conduct research and development functions for  
18 the entire CP Division;
- 19 c. These products are then tested by other Syngenta Group companies, including  
20 SCPLLC, under the direction and supervision of the SEC, the CP Leadership Team,  
21 or other Syngenta Group global managers;
- 22 d. Syngenta Group companies, including SCPLLC, do not contract with or  
23 compensate each other for this testing;
- e. Rather, the cost of such testing is included in the testing companies' operating  
budgets, which are established and approved by the Syngenta Group's global  
product development managers and the SEC;
- f. If a product shows promise based on this testing and the potential markets for the  
product, either global or regional leaders (depending on whether the target market  
is global or regional), not individual Syngenta Group companies such as SCPLLC,  
decide whether to sell the product;



1 g. Decisions to sell the product must be approved by the SEC; and

2 h. The products that are sold all bear the same Syngenta trademark and logo.

3 41. SCPLLC is subject to additional oversight and control by Syngenta Group global  
4 managers through a system of “reserved powers” established by SAG and applicable to all  
5 Syngenta Group companies. These “reserved powers” require Syngenta Group companies to seek  
6 approval for certain decisions from higher levels within the Syngenta Group’s functional reporting  
7 structure. For example, although SAG permits Syngenta Group companies to handle small legal  
8 matters on their own, under the “reserved powers” system, SAG’s Board of Directors must approve  
9 settlements of certain types of lawsuits against Syngenta Group companies, including SCPLLC, if  
10 their value exceeds an amount specified in the “reserved powers.”

11 42. Similarly, the appointments of senior managers at SCPLLC must be approved by  
12 higher levels than SCPLLC’s own management, board of directors, or even its direct legal owner.  
13 Although SCPLLC takes the formal action necessary to appoint its own senior managers, this  
14 formal action is in fact merely the rubber-stamping of decisions that have already been made by  
15 the Syngenta Group’s global management.

16 43. Although SAG subsidiaries, including SCPLLC, pay lip service to legal formalities  
17 that give the appearance of authority to act independently, in practice many of their acts are  
18 directed or pre-approved by the Syngenta Group’s global management. SAG and the global  
19 management of the Syngenta Group restrict the authority of SCPLLC to act independently in areas  
20 including:

21 a. Product development;

22 b. Product testing (among other things, SAG and the global management of the  
23 Syngenta Group require SCPLLC to use Syngenta Ltd.’s Central Toxicology

1 Laboratory to design, perform, or oversee product safety testing that SCPLLC  
2 submits to the EPA in support of the registrations of paraquat and other pesticides);

3 c. Production;

4 d. Marketing;

5 e. Sales;

6 f. Human resources;

7 g. Communications and public affairs;

8 h. Corporate structure and ownership

9 i. Asset sales and acquisitions

10 j. Key appointments to boards, committees, and management positions;

11 k. Compensation packages;

12 l. Training for high-level positions; and

13 m. Finance (including day-to-day cash management) and tax.

14 44. Under the Syngenta Group's functional management system, global managers  
15 initiate, and the global Head of Human Resources oversees international assignments and  
16 compensation of managers employed by one Syngenta subsidiary to do temporary work for another  
17 Syngenta subsidiary in another country. This international assignment program aims, in part, to  
18 improve Syngenta Group-wide succession planning by developing corporate talent to make  
19 employees fit for higher positions within the global Syngenta Group of companies. Under this  
20 international assignment program, at the instance of Syngenta Group global managers, SCPLLC  
21 officers and employees have been "seconded" to work at other SAG subsidiaries, and officers and  
22 employees of other Syngenta Group subsidiaries have been "seconded" to work at SCPLLC.

23 45. The Syngenta Group's functional management system includes a central global  
finance function—known as Syngenta Group Treasury—for the entire Syngenta Group. The



1 finances of all Syngenta Group companies are governed by a global treasury policy that  
2 subordinates the financial interests of SAG's subsidiaries, including SCPLLC, to the interests of  
3 the Syngenta Group as a whole. Under the Syngenta Group's global treasury policy, Syngenta  
4 Group Treasury controls daily cash sweeps from subsidiaries such as SCPLLC, holds the cash on  
5 account, and lends it to other subsidiaries that need liquidity. The Syngenta Group's global  
6 treasury policy does not allow SAG subsidiaries such as SCPLLC to seek or obtain financing from  
7 non-Syngenta entities without the approval of Syngenta Group Treasury. Syngenta Group  
8 Treasury also decides whether SCPLLC will issue a dividend or distribution to its direct parent  
9 company, and how much that dividend will be. SCPLLC's board or management approves  
10 dividends and distributions mandated by Syngenta Group Treasury without any meaningful  
11 deliberation.

12 46. In 2011, a federal District Court held that SAG's unusually high degree of control  
13 over SCPLLC made SCPLLC the agent or alter ego of SAG and therefore subjected SAG to  
14 jurisdiction in the State of Illinois. See *City of Greenville, Ill. v. Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.*,  
15 830 F. Supp. 2d 550 (S.D. Ill. 2011). SAG continues to exercise the unusually high degree of  
16 control over SCPLLC. SAG, through its agent or alter ego, SCPLLC, does substantial business in  
17 the State of Washington, in the ways previously alleged as to SCPLLC.

## 18 2. Chevron Entities

19 47. Chevron Chemical Company ("Chevron Chemical") was a corporation organized  
20 in 1928 under the laws of the State of Delaware. In 1997, Chevron Chemical was merged into  
21 Chevron Chemical Company LLC ("Chevron Chemical LLC"), a limited liability company  
22 organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. In the mid-2000s, Chevron Chemical LLC was  
23 merged into or continued to operate under the same or similar ownership and management as

1 Defendant CP Chemical, a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State  
2 of Delaware with its principal place of business in The Woodlands, Texas.

3 48. As a result of these various transactions, discussed *supra*: CP Chemical is a  
4 successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate predecessor Chevron Chemical  
5 LLC; and CP Chemical is a successor by merger or continuation of business to its corporate  
6 predecessor Chevron Chemical.

7 49. CP Chemical is registered to do business in the State of Washington, and does  
8 substantial business in the State of Washington, including King County; among other things, it  
9 owns and/or operates numerous filling stations in King County.

10 50. Defendant Chevron USA is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of  
11 the State of Pennsylvania, with its principal place of business in the State of California. Chevron  
12 USA is registered to do business in Washington. In the mid-2000s, Chevron USA entered into an  
13 agreement in which it expressly assumed the liabilities of Chevron Chemical and Chevron  
14 Chemical LLC arising from Chevron Chemical's then-discontinued agrichemical business, which  
15 included the design, registration, manufacture, formulation, packaging, labeling, distribution,  
16 marketing, and sale of paraquat products in the United States as alleged in this Complaint.

17 **3. Chamberlin**

18 51. Defendant Chamberlin is a Washington company. During the relevant time period,  
19 Chamberlin maintained a retail location in or around Oroville, Washington, where it sold and/or  
20 mixed, *inter alia*, paraquat-containing herbicides.

21 **4. Northwest Wholesale**

22 52. Defendant Northwest Wholesale is a Washington company. Defendant Northwest  
23 Wholesale is a Washington company. During the relevant time period, Northwest Wholesale



1 maintained a retail location in or around Oroville, Washington, where it sold and/or mixed, inter  
2 alia, paraquat-containing herbicides.

3 **B. Paraquat Manufacture, Distribution, and Sale**

4 53. ICI, a legacy company of Syngenta, claims to have discovered the herbicidal  
5 properties of paraquat in 1955. The leading manufacturer of paraquat is Syngenta, which (as ICI)  
6 developed the active ingredient in paraquat in the early 1960s.

7 54. ICI produced the first commercial paraquat formulation and registered it in England  
8 in 1962. Paraquat was first marketed in 1962 under the brand name Gramoxone. Paraquat first  
9 became commercially available for use in the United States in 1964.

10 55. In or about 1964, ICI and Chevron Chemical entered into agreements regarding the  
11 licensing and distribution of paraquat (“the ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements”). In or about  
12 1971, ICI Americas became a party to the ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements on the same terms  
13 as ICI. The ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements were renewed or otherwise remained in effect  
14 until about 1986.

15 56. In the ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements:

- 16 • ICI and ICI Americas granted Chevron Chemical a license to their patents and  
17 technical information to permit Chevron Chemical to formulate or have formulated,  
18 use, and sell paraquat in the United States and to grant sub-licenses to others to do  
19 so;
- 20 • Chevron Chemical granted ICI and ICI Americas a license to its patents and  
21 technical information to permit ICI and ICI Americas to formulate or have  
22 formulated, use, and sell paraquat throughout the world and to grant sub-licenses  
23 to others to do so;
- ICI and ICI Americas and Chevron Chemical agreed to exchange patent and  
technical information regarding paraquat;
- ICI and ICI Americas granted Chevron Chemical exclusive rights to distribute and  
sell paraquat in the United States; and

- ICI and ICI Americas granted Chevron Chemical a license to distribute and sell paraquat in the U.S. under the ICI-trademarked brand name Gramoxone.

57. ICI and ICI Americas and Chevron Chemical entered into the ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements to divide the worldwide market for paraquat between them. Under the ICI-Chevron Chemical Agreements and related agreements:

- Chevron Chemical distributed and sold paraquat in the U.S. and ICI and ICI Americas distributed and sold paraquat outside the United States.
- Both ICI and ICI Americas and Chevron Chemical distributed and sold paraquat under the ICI-trademarked brand name Gramoxone.
- ICI and ICI Americas and Chevron Chemical exchanged patent and technical information regarding paraquat.
- ICI and ICI Americas provided to Chevron Chemical health and safety and efficacy studies performed or procured by ICI's Central Toxicology Laboratory, which Chevron Chemical then submitted to the USDA and the EPA to secure and maintain the registration of paraquat for manufacture, formulation, distribution, and sale for use in the United States.
- ICI and ICI Americas manufactured and sold paraquat to Chevron Chemical that Chevron Chemical then distributed and sold in the United States, including in Washington, where Chevron Chemical registered paraquat products and marketed, advertised, and promoted them to Washington distributors, dealers, applicators, and farmers.
- Chevron Chemical distributed and sold paraquat in the United States under the ICI-trademarked brand name Gramoxone and other names, including in Washington, where Chevron Chemical registered such products and marketed, advertised, and promoted them to Washington distributors, dealers, applicators, and farmers.

58. SAG and its corporate predecessors and others with whom they acted in concert have manufactured, formulated, distributed, and sold paraquat for use in the United States from about 1964 through the present, and at all relevant times intended or expected their paraquat products to be distributed and sold in Washington, where they registered such products, and marketed, advertised, and promoted them to Washington distributors, dealers, applicators, and farmers.



1           59. SAG and its corporate predecessors and others with whom they acted in concert  
2 have submitted health and safety and efficacy studies to the USDA and the EPA to support the  
3 registration of paraquat for manufacture, formulation, distribution, and sale for use in the United  
4 States from approximately 1964 through the present.

5           60. SCPLLC and its corporate predecessors and others with whom they acted in concert  
6 have manufactured, formulated, distributed, and sold paraquat for use in the United States from  
7 about 1971 through the present, and at all relevant times intended or expected their paraquat  
8 products to be distributed and sold in Washington, where they registered such products, and  
9 marketed, advertised, and promoted them to Washington distributors, dealers, applicators, and  
10 farmers.

11           61. SCPLLC and its corporate predecessors and others with whom they acted in concert  
12 have submitted health and safety and efficacy studies to the EPA to support the registration of  
13 paraquat for manufacture, formulation, distribution, and sale for use in the U.S. from about 1971  
14 through the present.

15           62. Chevron Chemical manufactured, formulated, distributed, and sold paraquat for use  
16 in the United States from about 1964 through at least 1986, acting in concert with ICI and ICI  
17 Americas throughout this period, including in Washington, where Chevron Chemical registered  
18 such products, and used in Washington, and marketed, advertised, and promoted them to  
19 Washington distributors, dealers, applicators, and farmers.

20 **C. Paraquat Usage**

21           63. Since 1964, paraquat has been used in the U.S. to kill broadleaf weeds and grasses  
22 before the planting or emergence of more than 100 field, fruit, vegetable, and plantation crops; to  
23 control weeds in orchards; and to desiccate (dry) plants before harvest. At all relevant times, where

1 paraquat was used, it was commonly used multiple times per year on the same land, particularly  
2 when used to control weeds in orchards or on farms with multiple crops planted on the same land  
3 within a single growing season or year, and such use was as intended or directed or reasonably  
4 foreseeable.

5 64. At all relevant times, paraquat manufactured, distributed, sold, and sprayed or  
6 caused to be sprayed by Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom  
7 they acted in concert, was typically sold to end-users in the form of liquid concentrates (and less  
8 commonly in the form of granular solids) designed to be diluted with water before or after loading  
9 it into the tank of a sprayer and applied by spraying it onto target weeds.

10 65. At all relevant times, concentrates containing paraquat manufactured, distributed,  
11 sold, and sprayed or caused to be sprayed by Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and  
12 others with whom they acted in concert typically were formulated with one or more "surfactants"  
13 to increase the ability of the herbicide to stay in contact with the leaf, penetrate the leaf's waxy  
14 surface, and enter into plant cells, and the accompanying instructions typically told end-users to  
15 add a surfactant or crop oil (which as typically formulated contains a surfactant) before use.

16 66. At all relevant times, paraquat typically was applied with a knapsack sprayer, hand-  
17 held sprayer, aircraft (i.e., crop duster), truck with attached pressurized tank, or tractor-drawn  
18 pressurized tank, and such use was as intended or directed or was reasonably foreseeable.

19 **D. Paraquat Exposure**

20 67. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that when paraquat was used in  
21 the manner intended or directed or in a reasonably foreseeable manner, users of paraquat and  
22 persons nearby would be exposed to paraquat while it was being mixed and loaded into the tanks  
23 of sprayers, including as a result of spills, splashes, and leaks.



1           68.     At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that when paraquat was used in  
2 the manner intended or directed or in a reasonably foreseeable manner, persons who sprayed  
3 paraquat or were in or near areas where it was being or recently had been sprayed would be exposed  
4 to paraquat, including as a result of spray drift, the movement of herbicide spray droplets from the  
5 target area to an area where herbicide application was not intended, typically by wind, and as a  
6 result of contact with sprayed plants.

7           69.     At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that when paraquat was used in  
8 the manner intended or directed or in a reasonably foreseeable manner, users of paraquat and  
9 persons nearby would be exposed to paraquat, including as a result of spills, splashes, and leaks,  
10 while equipment used to spray it was being emptied or cleaned or clogged spray nozzles, lines, or  
11 valves were being cleared.

12           70.     At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat could enter the  
13 human body via absorption through or penetration of the skin, mucous membranes, and other  
14 epithelial tissues, including tissues of the mouth, nose and nasal passages, trachea, and conducting  
15 airways, particularly where cuts, abrasions, rashes, sores, or other tissue damage was present.

16           71.     At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat could enter the  
17 human body via respiration into the lungs, including the deep parts of the lungs where respiration  
18 (gas exchange) occurred.

19           72.     At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat could enter the  
20 human body via ingestion into the digestive tract of small droplets swallowed after entering the  
21 mouth, nose, or conducting airways.  
22  
23

1           73. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat that entered the  
2 human body via ingestion into the digestive tract could enter the enteric nervous system (the part  
3 of the nervous system that governs the function of the gastrointestinal tract).

4           74. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat that entered the  
5 human body, whether via absorption, respiration, or ingestion, could enter the bloodstream.

6           75. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat that entered the  
7 bloodstream could enter the brain, whether through the blood-brain barrier or parts of the brain not  
8 protected by the blood-brain barrier.

9           76. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable that paraquat that entered the  
10 nose and nasal passages could enter the brain through the olfactory bulb (a part of the brain  
11 involved in the sense of smell), which is not protected by the blood-brain barrier.

12 **E. Parkinson's Disease**

13           77. PD is progressive neurodegenerative disorder of the brain that affects primarily the  
14 motor system, the part of the central nervous system that controls movement. Scientists who study  
15 PD generally agree that fewer than 10% of all PD cases are caused by inherited genetic mutations  
16 alone, and that more than 90% are caused by a combination of environmental factors, genetic  
17 susceptibility, and the aging process.

18 **I. Symptoms and treatment**

19           78. The characteristic symptoms of PD are its "primary" motor symptoms: resting  
20 tremor (shaking movement when the muscles are relaxed), bradykinesia (slowness in voluntary  
21 movement and reflexes), rigidity (stiffness and resistance to passive movement), and postural  
22 instability (impaired balance). PD's primary motor symptoms often result in "secondary" motor  
23 symptoms such as freezing of gait; shrinking handwriting; mask-like expression; slurred,



1 monotonous, quiet voice; stooped posture; muscle spasms; impaired coordination; difficulty  
2 swallowing; and excess saliva and drooling caused by reduced swallowing movements.

3 79. Non-motor symptoms-such as loss of or altered sense of smell; constipation; low  
4 blood pressure on rising to stand; sleep disturbances; and depression-are present in most cases of  
5 PD, often for years before any of the primary motor symptoms appear.

6 80. There is currently no cure for PD. No treatment will slow, stop, or reverse its  
7 progression, and the treatments most-commonly prescribed for its motor symptoms tend to become  
8 progressively less effective, and to cause unwelcome side effects, the longer they are used.

9 **2. Pathophysiology**

10 81. The selective degeneration and death of dopaminergic neurons (dopamine-  
11 producing nerve cells) in a part of the brain called the substantia nigra pars compacta ("SNpc") is  
12 one of the primary pathophysiological hallmarks of PD. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter (a  
13 chemical messenger that transmits signals from one neuron to another neuron, muscle cell, or gland  
14 cell) that is critical to the brain's control of motor function (among other things). The death of  
15 dopaminergic neurons in the SNpc decreases the production of dopamine.

16 82. Once dopaminergic neurons die, they are not replaced; when enough dopaminergic  
17 neurons have died, dopamine production falls below the level the brain requires for proper control  
18 of motor function, resulting in the motor symptoms of PD. The presence of Lewy bodies (insoluble  
19 aggregates of a protein called alpha-synuclein) in many of the remaining dopaminergic neurons in  
20 the SNpc is another of the primary pathophysiological hallmarks of PD. Dopaminergic neurons  
21 are particularly susceptible to oxidative stress, a disturbance in the normal balance between  
22 oxidants present in cells and cells' antioxidant defenses. Scientists who study PD generally agree  
23 that oxidative stress is a major factor in—if not the precipitating cause of—the degeneration and

1 death of dopaminergic neurons in the SNpc and the accumulation of Lewy bodies in the remaining  
2 dopaminergic neurons that are the primary pathophysiological hallmarks of PD.

3 **F. Paraquat's Toxicity**

4 83. Paraquat is highly toxic to both plants and animals. Paraquat injures and kills plants  
5 by creating oxidative stress that causes or contributes to cause the degeneration and death of plant  
6 cells. Paraquat injures and kills humans and other animals by creating oxidative stress that causes  
7 or contributes to cause the degeneration and death of animal cells. Paraquat creates oxidative  
8 stress in the cells of plants and animals because of "redox properties" that are inherent in its  
9 chemical composition and structure: it is a strong oxidant, and it readily undergoes "redox cycling"  
10 in the presence of molecular oxygen, which is plentiful in living cells.

11 84. The redox cycling of paraquat in living cells interferes with cellular functions that  
12 are necessary to sustain life—photosynthesis in the case of plant cells and cellular respiration in  
13 the case of animal cells. The redox cycling of paraquat in living cells creates a "reactive oxygen  
14 species" known as superoxide radical, an extremely reactive molecule that can initiate a cascading  
15 series of chemical reactions that creates other reactive oxygen species that damage lipids, proteins,  
16 and nucleic acids—molecules that are essential components of the structures and functions of  
17 living cells. Because the redox cycling of paraquat can repeat indefinitely in the conditions  
18 typically present in living cells, a single molecule of paraquat can trigger the production of  
19 countless molecules of destructive superoxide radical. Significantly, Paraquat's redox properties  
20 have been known since at least the 1930s.

21 85. That paraquat is toxic to the cells of plants and animals because it creates oxidative  
22 stress through redox cycling has been known since at least the 1960s. The surfactants with which  
23 the concentrates containing paraquat manufactured, distributed, and sold by Defendants,



1 Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert typically were  
2 formulated were likely to increase paraquat's toxicity to humans by increasing its ability to stay in  
3 contact with or penetrate the skin, mucous membranes, and other epithelial tissues, including  
4 tissues of the mouth, nose and nasal passages, trachea, and conducting airways, the lungs, and the  
5 gastrointestinal tract.

6 **G. Paraquat and Parkinson's Disease**

7 86. The same redox properties that make paraquat toxic to plant cells and other types  
8 of animal cells make it toxic to dopaminergic neurons—paraquat is a strong oxidant that interferes  
9 with the function of, damages, and ultimately kills dopaminergic neurons by creating oxidative  
10 stress through redox cycling. Although PD is not known to occur naturally in any species other  
11 than humans, PD research is often performed using “animal models,” in which scientists artificially  
12 produce in laboratory animals, conditions that show features of PD. Paraquat is one of only a  
13 handful of toxins that scientists use to produce animal models of PD.

14 87. In animal models of PD, hundreds of studies involving various routes of exposure  
15 have found that paraquat creates oxidative stress that results in the degeneration and death of  
16 dopaminergic neurons in the SNpc, other pathophysiology consistent with that seen in human PD,  
17 and motor deficits and behavioral changes consistent with those commonly seen in human PD.  
18 Hundreds of in vitro studies have found that paraquat creates oxidative stress that results in the  
19 degeneration and death of dopaminergic neurons (and many other types of animal cells).  
20 Additionally, many epidemiological studies (studies of the patterns and causes of disease in  
21 defined populations) have found an association between paraquat exposure and PD, including  
22 multiple studies finding a two- to five-fold or greater increase in the risk of PD in populations with  
23 occupational exposure to paraquat compared to populations without such exposure.



1 **H. Paraquat Regulation**

2 88. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (“FIFRA”), 7 U.S.C. §  
3 136 et seq., which regulates the distribution, sale, and use of pesticides within the United States,  
4 requires that pesticides be registered with the EPA prior to their distribution, sale, or use, except  
5 as described by FIFRA. 7 U.S.C. 136a(a). As part of the pesticide registration process, the EPA  
6 requires, among other things, a variety of tests to evaluate the potential for exposure to pesticides,  
7 toxicity to people and other potential non-target organisms, and other adverse effects on the  
8 environment.

9 89. As a general rule, FIFRA requires registrants to perform health and safety testing  
10 of pesticides. FIFRA does not, however, require the EPA to perform health and safety testing of  
11 pesticides itself, and the EPA generally does not perform such testing.

12 90. The EPA registers (or re-registers) a pesticide if it believes, based largely on studies  
13 and data submitted by the registrant, that:

- 14 a. its composition is such as to warrant the proposed claims for it, 7 U.S.C. §  
15 136a(c)(5)(A);
- 16 b. its labeling and other material required to be submitted comply with the  
17 requirements of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(B);
- 18 c. it will perform its intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on the  
19 environment, 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(C); and
- 20 d. when used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice it  
21 will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, 7 U.S.C.  
22 § 136a(c)(5)(D).

23 91. FIFRA defines “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment” as “any  
unreasonable risk to man or the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and  
environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide.” 7 U.S.C. § 136(bb). Under FIFRA,  
“[a]s long as no cancellation proceedings are in effect registration of a pesticide shall be prima

1 facie evidence that the pesticide, its labeling and packaging comply with the registration provisions  
 2 of [FIFRA].” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(f)(2). However, FIFRA further provides that “[i]n no event shall  
 3 registration of an article be construed as a defense for the commission of any offense under  
 4 [FIFRA].” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(f)(2).

5 92. The distribution or sale of a pesticide that is misbranded is an offense under FIFRA,  
 6 which provides in relevant part that “it shall be unlawful for any person in any State to distribute  
 7 or sell to any person . . . any pesticide which is . . . misbranded.” 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(E). A  
 8 pesticide is misbranded under FIFRA if, among other things:

- 9 a. its labeling bears any statement, design, or graphic representation relative thereto  
 10 or to its ingredients that is false or misleading in any particular, 7 U.S.C. §  
 11 136(q)(1)(A);
- 12 b. the labeling accompanying it does not contain directions for use which are  
 13 necessary for effecting the purpose for which the product is intended and if  
 14 complied with, together with any requirements imposed under Section 136a(d) of  
 15 the title, are adequate to protect health and the environment, 7 U.S.C. §  
 16 136(q)(1)(F); or
- 17 c. the label does not contain a warning or caution statement that may be necessary and  
 18 if complied with, together with any requirements imposed under section 136a(d) of  
 19 the title, is adequate to protect health and the environment,” 7 U.S.C. §  
 20 136(q)(1)(G).

21 93. Plaintiff does not seek in this action to impose on Defendants any labeling or  
 22 packaging requirement in addition to or different from those required under FIFRA; accordingly,  
 23 any allegation in this complaint that a Defendant breached a duty to provide adequate directions  
 for the use of paraquat or warnings about paraquat, breached a duty to provide adequate packaging  
 for paraquat, or concealed, suppressed, or omitted to disclose any material fact about paraquat or  
 engaged in any unfair or deceptive practice regarding paraquat, that allegation is intended and  
 should be construed to be consistent with that alleged breach, concealment, suppression, or  
 omission, or unfair or deceptive practice, having rendered the paraquat “misbranded” under



1 FIFRA; however, Plaintiff brings claims and seeks relief in this action only under state law, and  
2 do not bring any claims or seek any relief in this action under FIFRA.

3 **I. Plaintiff Dale Smith's Paraquat Exposure**

4 94. Plaintiff Dale Smith (DOB: 4/17/61; SSN: ####-##-9591) was exposed to Paraquat  
5 and/or paraquat-containing products, which had been manufactured, supplied, produced, mixed  
6 and/or placed into the stream of commerce by Defendants.

7 95. More specifically, beginning in or around 1973 and continuing up through  
8 approximately 1980, Dale Smith used a sprayer hitched to a tractor to spray paraquat and/or  
9 paraquat-containing products in the course of his work at an apple orchard owned by Gordon  
10 Roberts, deceased, in or around Oroville, Washington. This paraquat and/or paraquat-containing  
11 product was purchased at a Northwest Wholesale store in or around Oroville, Washington, and  
12 designed, manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Chevron U.S.A, CP Chemical, Syngenta and/or  
13 Syngenta AG.

14 96. Beginning in approximately 1984 and continuing until approximately 1998, Dale  
15 Smith sprayed Paraquat and/or paraquat-containing products in the course of his work as the  
16 groundskeeper for Oroville Grade School and Oroville High School in Oroville, Washington. This  
17 Paraquat and/or paraquat-containing product was purchased at a Chamberlin store in or around  
18 Oroville, Washington, and designed, manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Chevron U.S.A, CP  
19 Chemical, Syngenta and/or Syngenta AG.

20 97. As a direct and proximate result of this exposure, Plaintiff Dale Smith developed  
21 Parkinson's disease ("PD"), which he was diagnosed with on or about 1997. He has now suffered  
22 with PD for roughly 24 years.

23 98. Critically, before approximately April 26, 2021:



- 1 • No doctor told Plaintiff Dale Smith that his Parkinson's disease was or could have  
2 been caused by exposure to paraquat.
- 3 • Plaintiff Dale Smith had never read or heard of any articles in newspapers, scientific  
4 journals, or other publications that associated Parkinson's disease with paraquat.
- 5 • Plaintiff Dale Smith had never read or heard of any lawsuit alleging that paraquat  
6 causes Parkinson's disease.

7 Moreover, at no time when using paraquat himself was Plaintiff Dale Smith aware that  
8 exposure to paraquat could cause any latent injury, including any neurological injury or  
9 Parkinson's disease, or that any precautions were necessary to prevent any latent injury that could  
10 be caused by exposure to paraquat.

11 99. The paraquat to which Plaintiff Dale Smith was exposed was sold and used in  
12 Washington, and was manufactured, distributed, and, on information and belief, sold by one or  
13 more of the Defendants and their corporate predecessors and others with whom they acted in  
14 concert intending or expecting that it would be sold and used in Washington.

15 100. On information and belief, Plaintiff Dale Smith was exposed to paraquat:

- 16 • manufactured, distributed, and sold at different times as to each Defendant, its  
17 corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert, and not  
18 necessarily throughout the entire period of his exposure as to any particular  
19 Defendant, its corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert;
- 20 • that was sold and used in Washington, and was manufactured, distributed, and sold  
21 by SCPLLC, its corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in  
22 concert, including Chevron Chemical, intending, or expecting that it would be sold  
23 and used in Washington;
- that was sold and used in Washington, and was manufactured, distributed, and sold  
by SAG, its corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert,  
including Chevron Chemical, intending, or expecting that it would be sold and used  
in Washington;
- that was sold and used in Washington, and was manufactured, distributed, and sold  
by Chevron Chemical, acting in concert with ICI and ICI Americas, intending or  
expecting that it would be sold and used in Washington; and

- that was sold and used in Washington and was distributed and sold by Chamberlin and Northwest Wholesale.

#### IV. CLAIMS

101. Plaintiff claims liability against Defendants based upon the theories of common law negligence; strict product liability, negligence, and breach of express and implied warranties under the Washington Product Liability Act (WPLA), RCW 7.72 et seq.; strict product liability under Section 402A and 402B of the Restatement of Torts; conspiracy; and any other applicable theory of liability. The liability-creating conduct of Defendants consisted of negligent and unsafe design; failure to inspect, test, warn, instruct, monitor, and/or recall; failure to substitute safe products; marketing or installing unreasonably dangerous or extra-hazardous and/or defective products; marketing or installing products not reasonably safe as designed; and marketing or installing products not reasonably safe for lack of adequate warning and marketing or installing products with misrepresentations of product safety.

#### **COUNT ONE: NEGLIGENCE**

##### **(Against All Defendants)**

102. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1-101 as though fully set forth herein.

103. At all times relevant to this claim, Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert were engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, distributing, and selling herbicides, and designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold paraquat.

104. The paraquat that Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed was used in the intended and directed manner or a reasonably foreseeable manner.



1           105. At all times relevant to this claim, in designing, manufacturing, packaging, labeling,  
2 distributing, and selling paraquat, and in acting in concert with others who did so, Defendants,  
3 Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert owed a duty to  
4 exercise ordinary care for the health and safety of the persons whom it was reasonably foreseeable  
5 could be exposed to it, including Plaintiff.

6           106. When Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they  
7 acted in concert designed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, distributed, and sold the paraquat to  
8 which Plaintiff was exposed, it was reasonably foreseeable, and Defendants, Defendants'  
9 corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert knew or in the exercise of  
10 ordinary case should have known, that when paraquat was used in the intended and directed  
11 manner or a reasonably foreseeable manner:

- 12           a. it was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was likely  
13 to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who  
14 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it  
15 had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and  
16           b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who  
17 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it  
18 had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause or  
19 contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent and  
20 cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause  
21 clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long  
22 after exposure.

23           107. In breach of the aforementioned duty to Plaintiff, Defendants, Defendants'  
corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert negligently:

- a. failed to design, manufacture, formulate, and package paraquat to make it unlikely  
to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who  
were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had  
been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed;



- 1 b. designed, manufactured, and formulated paraquat such that when inhaled, ingested,  
2 or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was  
3 being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas  
4 near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent  
neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated  
exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause clinically significant  
neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long after exposure;
- 5 c. failed to perform adequate testing to determine the extent to which exposure to  
6 paraquat was likely to occur through inhalation, ingestion, and absorption into the  
7 bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who  
entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been  
sprayed;
- 8 d. failed to perform adequate testing to determine the extent to which paraquat spray  
9 drift was likely to occur, including its propensity to drift, the distance it was likely  
to drift, and the extent to which paraquat spray droplets were likely to enter the  
10 bodies of persons spraying it or other persons nearby during or after spraying;
- 11 e. failed to perform adequate testing to determine the extent to which paraquat, when  
12 inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were  
13 nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been  
sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, was likely to cause or contribute  
14 to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and  
the extent to which repeated exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause  
clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long  
after exposure;
- 15 f. failed to perform adequate testing to determine the extent to which paraquat, when  
16 formulated or mixed with surfactants or other pesticides or used along with other  
17 pesticides, and inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used  
it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards  
18 where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, was likely to  
cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent  
and cumulative, and the extent to which repeated exposures were likely to cause or  
19 contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD,  
to develop long after exposure;
- 20 g. failed to direct that paraquat be used in a manner that would have made it unlikely  
21 to have been inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used  
it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards  
22 where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and
- 23 h. failed to warn that when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons  
who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or  
orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed,

1           paraquat was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage that  
2           was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause  
3           or contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including  
4           PD, to develop long after exposure.

5           108. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, their corporate  
6           predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert, Plaintiff developed PD; has suffered  
7           severe and permanent physical pain, mental anguish, and disability, and will continue to do so for  
8           the remainder of his life; has suffered the loss of a normal life and will continue to do so for the  
9           remainder of his life; has lost income that he otherwise would have earned and will continue to do  
10          so for the remainder of his life; and has incurred reasonable expenses for necessary medical  
11          treatment and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life.

12           **COUNT TWO: STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT**

13           **(Against Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG)**

14          109. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1-108 as though fully set forth herein.

15          110. At all relevant times, Defendants, Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG,  
16          their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert were engaged in the U.S.  
17          paraquat business.

18          111. At all relevant times, Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG,  
19          their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert were engaged in the  
20          business of designing, manufacturing, distributing, and selling pesticides, and designed,  
21          manufactured, distributed, and sold paraquat.

22          112. The paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG,  
23          their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured,  
24          distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed was in a defective condition that made it  
25          unreasonably dangerous, in that when used in the intended and directed manner or a reasonably



1 foreseeable manner:

- 2 a. it was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was likely to  
3 be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were  
4 nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been  
5 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and  
6  
7 b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who  
8 were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had  
9 been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause or  
10 contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent and  
11 cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause  
12 clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long  
13 after exposure.

14 113. This defective condition existed in the paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA, CP  
15 Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in  
16 concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed when it  
17 left the control of Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate  
18 predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert and was placed into the stream of  
19 commerce.

20 114. As a result of this defective condition, the paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA,  
21 CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted  
22 in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed either  
23 failed to perform in the manner reasonably to be expected in light of its nature and intended  
function, or the magnitude of the dangers outweighed its utility. The paraquat that Defendants,  
Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed,  
manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed was used in the intended  
and directed manner or a reasonably foreseeable manner.



**COUNT THREE: STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY: FAILURE TO WARN**

**(Against Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG)**

115. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1-114 as though fully set forth herein.

116. At all times relevant to this claim, Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert were engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, distributing, and selling pesticides, and designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold paraquat.

117. When Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold the paraquat to which Plaintiff was exposed, Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert knew or in the exercise of ordinary care should have known that when used in the intended and directed manner or a reasonably foreseeable manner:

- a. it was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was likely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and
- b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long after exposure.

118. The paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed was in a defective condition that made it unreasonably dangerous when it was used in the intended and directed manner or a reasonably

1 foreseeable manner, in that:

- 2 a. it was not accompanied by directions for use that would have made it unlikely to  
3 be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were  
4 nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been  
5 sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and  
6 b. it was not accompanied by a warning that when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into  
7 the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who  
8 entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been  
9 sprayed, it was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage  
10 that was both permanent and cumulative, and that repeated exposures were likely  
11 to cause or contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease,  
12 including PD, to develop long after exposure.

13 119. This defective condition existed in the paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA, CP  
14 Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in  
15 concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed when it  
16 left the control of Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate  
17 predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert and was placed into the stream of  
18 commerce.

19 120. As a result of this defective condition, the paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA,  
20 CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted  
21 in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed either  
22 failed to perform in the manner reasonably to be expected in light of its nature and intended  
23 function, or the magnitude of the dangers outweighed its utility.

121. The paraquat that Defendants Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG,  
their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured,  
distributed, and sold and to which Plaintiff was exposed was used in the intended and directed  
manner or a reasonably foreseeable manner.



1 122. As a direct and proximate result of the lack of adequate directions for the use of  
2 and warnings about the dangers of the paraquat manufactured, distributed and sold by Defendants  
3 Chevron USA, CP Chemical, SCPLLC and SAG, their corporate predecessors, and others with  
4 whom they acted in concert, Plaintiff developed PD; has suffered severe and permanent physical  
5 pain, mental anguish, and disability, and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life; has  
6 suffered the loss of a normal life and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life; has lost  
7 income that he otherwise would have earned and will continue to do so for the remainder of his  
8 life; and has incurred reasonable expenses for necessary medical treatment and will continue to do  
9 so for the remainder of his life.

10 **COUNT FOUR: BREACH EXPRESSED AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

11 **(Against All Defendants)**

12 123. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1-122 as though fully set forth herein.

13 124. At all times relevant to this claim, Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors,  
14 and others with whom they acted in concert were engaged in the business of designing,  
15 manufacturing, distributing, and selling paraquat and other restricted-use pesticides and  
16 themselves out as having knowledge or skill regarding paraquat and other restricted-use pesticides.

17 125. At all times relevant to this claim, Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors,  
18 and others with whom they acted in concert designed, manufactured, distributed, and sold  
19 paraquat.

20 126. At the time of each sale of paraquat to which Plaintiff was exposed, Defendants,  
21 Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert expressly and  
22 impliedly warranted that it was of merchantable quality, including that it was fit for the ordinary  
23 purposes for which such goods were used.



127. Defendants, Defendants' corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert breached this warranty regarding each sale of paraquat to which Plaintiff was exposed, in that it was not of merchantable quality because it was not fit for the ordinary purposes for which such goods were used, and in particular:

- a. it was designed, manufactured, formulated, and packaged such that it was likely to be inhaled, ingested, and absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed; and
- b. when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed into the bodies of persons who used it, who were nearby while it was being used, or who entered fields or orchards where it had been sprayed or areas near where it had been sprayed, it was likely to cause or contribute to cause latent neurological damage that was both permanent and cumulative, and repeated exposures were likely to cause or contribute to cause clinically significant neurodegenerative disease, including PD, to develop long after exposure.

128. As a direct and proximate result of these breaches of express and implied warranties by Defendants, their corporate predecessors, and others with whom they acted in concert, Plaintiff developed PD; has suffered severe and permanent physical pain, mental anguish, and disability, and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life; has suffered the loss of a normal life and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life; has lost income that he otherwise would have earned and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life; and has incurred reasonable expenses for necessary medical treatment and will continue to do so for the remainder of his life.

## V. REQUESTED RELIEF

129. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1-128 as though fully set forth herein.

130. As a proximate result of Defendants' negligence and/or product liability and/or other basis of liability, Plaintiff Dale Smith sustained pain, suffering, and disability in an amount not now known, but which will be proven at trial. Plaintiff Dale Smith is entitled to damages for his physical pain and suffering, mental anguish, anxiety, physical impairment, disability,

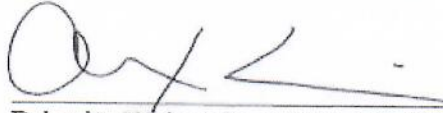
1 disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, and his reasonable and necessary medical bills and other  
2 expenses incurred as a result of his Parkinson's disease. Plaintiff Dale Smith sustained medical  
3 expenses and economic losses in an amount to be proven at trial.

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants and each of them as  
5 follows:

- 6 a. Physical pain and suffering in the past and which, in reasonable probability, he will  
7 continue to suffer in the future;
- 8 b. Physical impairment and incapacity in the past and which, in reasonable probability,  
9 he will continue to suffer in the future;
- 10 c. Pain, suffering and mental anguish in the past and which, in reasonable probability, he  
11 will sustain in the future;
- 12 d. Reasonable and necessary medical expenses for treatment received in the past and  
13 based upon reasonable medical probability, the reasonable medical expenses he will  
14 need in the future;
- 15 e. Disfigurement in the past and which, in reasonable probability, he will continue to  
16 suffer in the future;
- 17 f. Disability in the past and which, in reasonable probability, he will continue to suffer in  
18 the future;
- 19 g. The lost earnings and loss of future earning capacity and value of future loss of  
20 household services of Plaintiff Dale Smith;
- 21 h. Plaintiff be awarded full, fair, and complete recovery for all claims and causes of action  
22 relevant to this action;
- 23 i. Plaintiff be awarded all appropriate costs, fees, expenses, and pre-judgment and post  
judgment interest pursuant to the laws of the State of Washington as authorized by law  
on the judgments entered in Plaintiff's behalf;
- j. Other damages contemplated by law in amounts to be determined at trial; and
- k. Such other relief the court deems just and proper.

1 DATED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021.

2  
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4 

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